



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell  
*Commissioner*

March 12, 2012

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of Education**

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Selection Committee  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20202-4536

Subject: Green Ribbon Schools Award Recommendation

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the State of Arkansas, it is a pleasure to present the attached application for consideration in the Green Ribbon Schools award process.

Acorn School, in the Ouachita River School District, exemplifies the spirit of environmental stewardship through education and action. The majority (71.92 percent) of the student population in this rural school is economically disadvantaged as indicated by students receiving free/reduced lunches.

With very limited resources, Acorn School integrated environmental education into the school's curriculum, has developed a fifteen-acre outdoor classroom and has identified and protected an endangered tree species (Ozark Chinquapin). The school has also achieved partnerships with numerous private, public and semi-public organizations to continue their environmental efforts.

Acorn School has won numerous environmental awards. Impressively, the students requested application and nomination for the Green Ribbon Schools recognition.

The students, staff and community are working together to create a better environment, a better future. This demonstrates the potential for school districts and individuals to impact environmental solutions, regardless of social or economic status.

I request your favorable consideration of the Green Ribbon School Award for the Acorn School in the Ouachita River School District.

If more information is needed, please contact Mr. Murray Britton at (501) 682-4261 or at [Murray.Britton@arkansas.gov](mailto:Murray.Britton@arkansas.gov).

Sincerely,

Tom W. Kimbrell, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

MB/cb  
Attachment

Four Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR  
72201-1019  
(501) 682-4475  
[ArkansasEd.org](http://ArkansasEd.org)



**U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools**

**2011-2012 Presentation of Nominee to the  
U.S. Department of Education**

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Attach State or Nominating Authority’s Evaluation of School Nominee (Either application or other documentation of review)	

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509  
Expiration Date: February 28, 2015

## **PART I - ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION**

### **School and District's Certifications**

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct.

1. The school has some configuration that includes one or more of grades K-12. (Schools on the same campus with one principal, even a K-12 school, must apply as an entire school.)
2. The school achieves or comes close to achieving the goals of all three green Ribbon Pillars: 1) environmental impact and energy efficiency; 2) healthy school environments; and 3) environmental and sustainability education.
3. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the state or Nominating Authority's jurisdiction (BIE, DoDEA), based on *documented achievement* toward the three Green School Pillars and Elements.
4. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review.
5. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
6. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
7. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
8. The school meets all applicable federal, state, tribal and local health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education  
Green Ribbon Schools 2012

For Public Schools only: (Check all that apply) ☐ Charter ☒ Title I ☐ Magnet ☒ Choice  
(Elementary)

Name of Principal Mr. William Edwards II  
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name Acorn High School  
(As it should appear in the official records)

School Mailing Address 143 Polk Rd  
(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

Mena AR 71953  
City State Zip

County Polk State School Code Number\* 5706000

Telephone (479) 394-5544 Fax (479) 394-1041

Web site/URL acorn.dmsc.k12.ar.us E-mail edwardsw@acorn.dmsc.k12.ar.us

I have reviewed the information in this application, including the award and eligibility requirements on page 2-4, and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

William Edwards II Date 3-6-12  
(Principal's Signature)

Name of Superintendent\* Mr. Steve Crumpler  
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

District Name\* Ouachita River Tel. 479 394-2348

I have reviewed the information in this application, including the award and eligibility requirements on page 2-4, and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate. I concur that this is one of the highest performing green school applicants in our state.

Steve Crumpler Date 3-6-12  
(Superintendent's Signature)

\*Private Schools: If the information requested is not applicable, write N/A in the space.



## **PART II – SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

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### **Instructions to School Principal**

Provide a concise and coherent "snapshot" that describes how your school is representative of your state's highest achieving green school efforts in approximately 600-800 words. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments. Focus on what makes your school worthy of the title U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School. Be sure to note if students were actively involved in preparing the application.

This summary should be written as a stand-alone document. It will provide the ED review panel with an overview of the school's green activities that were detailed in the application to the state, DoDEA or BIE evaluators. If the school is awarded a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon, this information may be shared with other schools, candidates for next year, the press, and the public.

## Part II. Summary of Achievements—Principal

Acorn High School is a small rural school in western Arkansas. It is part of the Ouachita River School District. Approximately 78% of our students receive free/reduced lunches.

Located on our campus is a 15-acre Outdoor Classroom that is mostly forested. Middle School science students have built trails; identified trees with signs and sitting rocks on which art students have painted the scientific and common names with a leaf/fruit so the tree could be identified during winter; constructed a large gazebo; maintain three large wildflower gardens, a vegetable garden and greenhouse with aquaculture for water and fertilizer; installed tracking boxes and watchable wildlife areas; created a picnic area nearby; and other classroom activities. The area is used by students in grades Pre-K through 12 and the general public. Students in grades 7-12 maintain the area and plan projects to help teach other classes ways to use the Outdoor Classroom to integrate math, literacy, science and other curricula. The walking trails have been the most successful in terms of utilization. ALL students can participate and benefit from nature.

After discovering an endangered Ozark Chinquapin tree in the Outdoor Classroom, the Middle School science students wanted to increase public awareness and the need for immediate action to save the tree from possible extinction. To do this, the students built a labyrinth around a Chinquapin tree. This labyrinth also provides stress relief and other related health benefits using focused walking. A large sign in the center explains the project.

We are educating our students about groundwater to improved water quality, efficiency and the need for conservation. This is done using kits such as SEPUP Fruitvale, labs to help students identify possible water contaminants, chemical water testing, macroinvertebrate studies of freshwater, and monitoring physical characteristics and their changers following flooding, drought, etc. , for the Ouachita River. As the "Ouachita River School District," we have formed a STREAM Team with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to monitor water quality. Since we are located at the headwater of the Ouachita River, it is appropriate that we monitor the first major body of water for the river and report chemical, biological and physical information to their database.

Acorn High School was awarded the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant allowing every elementary child to receive a healthy afternoon snack teaching children healthy eating habits. We also participate in the Arkansas Challenge Breakfast in the Classroom to help them get the nutrition they need to start the day and help them be successful.

Students in environmental science education classes use many hands-on activities with most of these being outdoors. Since the student learning projects are relevant and follow curricular frameworks, all students can be successful. Research from the National Training Laboratories indicates that students retain 75% when they practice by doing, but immediate USE of that learning increases retention of skills/learning to 90%. This is what our outdoor environmental education program is all about. The eighth grade science class is totally project-based and uses these strategies to obtain student mastery while learning to be good stewards of our planet. Many projects for grades Pre-K – 12 are student-generated and relevant to environment and sustainability. This year the middle school student selected the Chinquapin Labyrinth as their Disney Planet Challenge project. Last year's project was "Go Outside" and won honorable mention in the national competition. The focus of that project was to develop lessons that elementary teachers could use and teach the lessons to both students and teachers.

Community organizations that support the Outdoor education program at Acorn School are Walmart, Rotary Club, Master Gardeners, Mena Nature Club, Rich Mountain Conservation District, Farm Bureau, Arkansas Forestry Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Queen Wilhelmina State Park, Cossatot River State Park, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Science Teachers Association, Acorn Rural Water Association, parents and grandparents, and community leaders. Students also benefit from activities in Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, Project Wet, Wonders of Wetlands, Aquatic Wild, Focus on Forests, and related programs.

The Outdoor Classroom projects will continue to be an integral part of our curriculum for grades Pre-K through 12.

## School Contact Information

School Name: **Acorn School**

Street Address: **143 Polk Rd. 96**

City: **Mena**

State: **AR**

Zip: **71953**

School Website: **acorn.dmsc.k12.ar.us**

Principal First Name: **William**

Principal Last Name: **Edwards**

Principal Email Address:  
**edwardsw@acorn.dmsc.k12.ar.us**

Principal Phone Number: **479-394-5544**

Lead Applicant First Name *(if different from principal)*:  
**Kathy**

Lead Applicant Last Name *(if different from principal)*:  
**Rusert**

Lead Applicant Email:  
**rusertk@acorn.dmsc.k12.ar.us**

Lead Applicant Phone Number: **479-394-5544**

Level

**[ xx ] Middle (6 - 8 or 9)**

School Type

**(xx ) Public**

How would you describe your school?

**(xx ) Rural**

District and Code *Example: Aberdeen School District - 14005*

**Ouachita River School District** **LEA #5706**

Does your school have at least 40 percent of your students from a disadvantaged background and defined by percent of students on free or reduced lunches?

**(xx ) Yes**

Q CC1: Is your school participating in a local, state, or nationally recognized green school program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion (*for example, National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA, Green Schools Alliance, Collaborative for High Performance Schools, or Project Learning Tree's Green Schools!*)?

**(xx ) Yes**

Which program(s) are you participating in and what level(s) have you achieved?

**We participate in Project Learning Tree's Green Schools! Program, the Arkansas Green Schools Challenge, Disney Planet Challenge, Lowe's Toolbox for Education, Project Wild and Outdoor Classrooms, Growing Up Wild, Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, STREAM Team, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Watchable Wildlife, National Energy Education Developmental Project (NEED), Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Tree Banding Project (SHOUT—7 year research project on climate change), Ozark Chinquapin Foundation Research Project for Endangered Species, Junior Master Gardeners Certification, and Outdoor Habitat Education.**

Q CC2: Has your school, staff or student body received any awards for environmental or sustainability stewardship/action?

**(xx ) Yes**

Please list the awards you have received and the years you received them.

**2011-Honorable Mention for national Disney Planet Challenge (hope for 1<sup>st</sup> this year)**  
**2012- Lowe's Toolbox for Education/Ozark Chinquapin Labyrinth Project**  
**2005-2012 (each year) Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs Program Awards**  
**2010-2011 Junior Master Gardener certification achieved by 100% of students participating**  
**2008, 2009 Farm Bureau Garden Project (2 years)**  
**2007 – PLT GreenWorks!**  
**2012 – PLT GreenSchools!**  
**2005 (est) – Arkansas Forestry Commission Shade Trees/Sunwise Playground**

## **Pillar 1: Environmental Impact and Energy Efficiency**

Q 1A1: Can your school demonstrate a reduction in its Greenhouse Gas emissions?

**(x ) No hard measurements**

**Q 1A2: Has your school received EPA ENERGY STAR certification or does it meet the requirements for ENERGY STAR certification?**

(xx ) No

**Q 1A3: Has your school reduced its total non-transportation energy use from an initial baseline?**

( xx) Yes

**Please provide the following information:**

Percentage reduction: \_\_\_\_\_ 17% \_\_\_\_\_

Measurement unit used (*kBTU/square foot, kBTU/student, annual therms, etc.*): \_\_\_\_\_ annual electric bills

Time period measured (mm/yyyy - mm/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_ 2008-09 (baseline) – 2009-2010 \_\_\_\_\_

How did you document this reduction (*ie. ENERGY STAR portfolio, district report*)?: \_\_\_\_\_

District Report Electric bills from Rich Mountain Electric Cooperative

**In what year was your school constructed?**

**1928 with newer buildings 1985 and 2001**

**What is the total building area of your school?**

**Approx. 78,000 square feet**

**Q 1A5: Has your school constructed a new building or renovated an existing building in the past ten years?**

**(xx ) Yes**

**Q 1A7: Does your school reduce and/or offset the greenhouse gas emissions from building energy use?**

( xx ) Yes

**Please provide the following information:**

List offsets used: \_\_\_\_\_ XX \_\_\_\_\_ new purchases reduce/offset greenhouse gas emissions \_\_\_\_\_ New purchases meet greenhouse gas emissions \_\_\_\_\_

Current total GHG emissions (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e): \_\_\_\_\_

Baseline total GHG emissions (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e): \_\_\_\_\_

Change from baseline: \_\_\_\_\_



Time period measured (mm/yyyy - mm/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

**Q 1A8: Please indicate which green building practices your school is using to ensure your building is**

☒ School has an energy and water efficient product purchasing and procurement policy in place

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

**Q 1B1: Can you demonstrate a reduction in your school's total water consumption (measured in gallons/occupant) from an initial baseline?**

☒ Yes

**Please provide the following information:**

Percentage reduction domestic: \_\_\_\_\_ 13% \_\_\_\_\_

Percentage reduction irrigation: \_\_\_\_\_

Time period measured (mm/yyyy - mm/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_ 2008-2009 (baseline) – 2009-2010 \_\_\_\_\_

How did you document this reduction (ie. ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, school district reports)?:

Records from the Acorn Water Association for gallons used/school year

**Q 1B2: Which of the following practices does your school employee to increase water efficiency and ensure quality? (Please check all that apply)**

☒ Our school conducts annual audits of the facility and irrigation systems to ensure they are free of significant water leaks and to identify opportunities for savings.

☐ Our school has a smart irrigation system that adjusts watering time based on weather conditions.

☒ Our school's landscaping is water-efficient and/or regionally appropriate.

☒ Our school uses alternative water sources (i.e., grey water) for irrigation before potable water.

☒ Taps, faucets, and fountains at our school are cleaned at least twice annually to reduce contamination and screens and aerators are cleaned at least annually to remove particulate lead deposits.

☒ Our school has a program to control lead in drinking water (including voluntary testing and implementation of measures to reduce lead exposure).

**Please provide the following information about your school's landscaping**

What percentage of your total landscaping is considered water-efficient or regionally appropriate?:

\_\_\_\_\_ **100%** \_\_\_\_\_



What types of plants are used and where are they located?: **Our campus is about 40 acres with approximately 15 acres forested. Landscaping includes native trees and plants to control erosion and water usage.**

Please describe the alternate water sources used for irrigation. *(Maximum 100 words)*

**Rainwater is collected for watering the vegetable garden and trees planted. We also use aquaculture (fish farming) to irrigate and fertilize the greenhouse plants.**

Please describe the program you have in place to control lead in drinking water. *(Maximum 100 words)*

**We are a part of the Acorn Rural Water Association and get our drinking water from the Iron's Fork Water Treatment Facility. They regularly test their drinking water to monitor lead and other possible contaminants. Middle School students complete a unit on groundwater and tour the facility each year.**

Q 1B3: Our school's drinking water comes from:

**(xx) Municipal water source**

Please describe how the water source is protected from potential contaminants. *(Maximum 100 words)*

**The water source is protected by constant monitoring of water solutes in the lake and security equipment at the Iron's Fork Water Treatment Plant. In addition, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulates usage of the lake by boats or other possible contaminants.**

Q 1B4: Please describe any additional progress your school has made towards improving water quality, efficiency, and conservation. *(Maximum 200 words)*

**We are educating our students about groundwater to improve water quality, efficiency and the need for conservation. This is being done using kits such as SEPUP Fruitvale, labs to help students identify possible water contaminants, chemical water testing, macroinvertebrate studies of freshwater, and monitoring physical characteristics and their changes following flooding, drought, etc., for the Ouachita River. As the "Ouachita River School District," we have formed a STREAM Team with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to monitor water quality. Since we are at the "headwater" of the Ouachita River, it is appropriate that we monitor the first major body of water for the river and report data (chemical, biological and physical) to their database.**

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## WASTE REDUCTION

**Q 1C1: What percentage of solid waste is diverted from landfilling or incinerating due to recycling and/or composting (i.e. Recycling Rate)?**

A - Monthly garbage service in cubic yards (garbage dumpster size(s) x number of collections per month x percentage full when emptied or collected).: 160

B - Monthly recycling volume in cubic yards (recycling dumpster sizes(s) x number of collections per month x percentage full when emptied or collected).: we donate paper to be recycled to the Polk County Developmental Center for developmentally challenged persons. C - Monthly compostable materials volume(s) in cubic yards (food scrap/food soiled paper dumpster size(s) x number of collections per month x percentage full when emptied or collected).: estimate 27 cu yards + 15 yards per month, used in outdoor classroom. We also do Lasagna gardening with additional recyclable materials

Recycling Rate =  $((B + C) \div (A + B + C) \times 100)$ : \_\_\_\_\_

**Q 1C2: What percentage of your school's total office/classroom paper content by cost is post-consumer material or fiber from forests certified as responsibly managed by the Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, American Tree Farm System or other certification standard. (If a product is only 30% recycled, only 30% of the cost should be counted)**

**Q 1C4: Please provide the following information about your school's hazardous waste**

How much hazardous waste does you school produce (lbs./person/year)?: **None. The only hazardous waste is from science class, which is taken to the local hospital and treated as bio-hazard materials**

**Q 1C5: Which of the following benchmarks has your school achieved to minimize and safely manage hazardous waste? (Please check all that apply)**

**[xx ] Our school has a hazardous waste policy for storage, management, and disposal that is actively enforced.**

**[xx ] Our school disposes of unwanted computer and electronic products through an approved recycling facility or program.**

**[ xx] All our computer purchases are Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) certified products**

**[xx ] Our custodial program has been certified to the Green Seal Standard for Commercial and Institutional Cleaning Services (GS-42), the ISSA Cleaning Industry Management Standard - Green Building or an equivalent standard.**

## **CARBON REDUCTION/TRANSPORTATION**

**Q 1D1: What percentage of your students walk, bike, bus, or carpool (2 + student in the car) to/from school?**



**90%--we are a small rural school and approximately 80% of our students ride the bus with remaining 10% carpooling to school or walking to school. The remaining 10% drive themselves or are brought to school by a parent.**

**How was this data collected and calculated? (*Maximum 100 words*)**

**Cycle 5 Report for the Arkansas Department of Education and includes information relating to number of students riding the buses and information on file relating to transportation.**

**Q 1D2: Which of the following policies or programs has your school implemented:**

**☒ Vehicle loading/unloading areas are at least 25 feet from building air intakes, doors, and windows. N/A**

☐ Our school has established Safe Pedestrian Routes to school which are distributed to parents and posted in our office.

☐ Our school participates in a "Safe Routes to School" program

**We are a rural school district so these are not procedures or programs we can have in place.**

**Q 1D3: Describe how your school transportation use is efficient and environmentally benign (*e.g. the percentage of school-owned electric/hybrid/alternative fuel vehicles in your fleet, or other indicators of significant reductions in emissions*):**

**New bus or other vehicle purchases are fuel efficient models to reduce pollution and use of fossil fuels.**

**Q 1D4: What percentage of the school grounds are devoted to ecologically beneficial uses (*school vegetable garden, wildlife or native plant habitats, outdoor classroom, environmental restoration projects, rain garden, etc.*) or socially/culturally beneficial uses (*e.g., playgrounds, outdoor spaces designed and used regularly for social interaction, athletic or recreational areas, walking or running trails etc.*)?**

***90% + used for outdoor activities.***

**Q 1D5: This is the end of Pillar 1. Please describe any other accomplishments or progress your school has made towards reducing/eliminating environmental impacts or improving your energy efficiency. (*Maximum 200 words*)**

## **Pillar 2: Healthy School Environments**

Healthy student and staff environment goal: **The school improves the health and performance of students and staff.**

Pillar 2 includes two main Elements:

- A) An integrated school environmental health program based on an operations and facility-wide environmental management system that considers student and staff health and safety in all practices related to design, construction, renovation, operations, and maintenance of schools and grounds.
- B) High standards of nutrition, fitness, and quantity of quality outdoor time for both students and staff.

Each question in this section is designed to measure your school's progress toward Pillar 2.

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### **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

Q 2A1: Which of the following practices does your school employ with regards to pest management?  
*(Please check all that apply)*

- ☒ [xx] Our school has an integrated pest management plan in place to reduce and/or eliminate pesticides.**
- ☒ [xx] Pest control policies, methods of application, and posting requirements are provided to parents and school employees.**
- ☒ [xx] Copies of pesticide labels, copies of notices, MSDS and annual summaries of pesticide applications are all available and in an accessible location.**
- ☒ [xx] Our school prohibits children from entering a treated area for at least 8 hours after the treatment or longer if required by the pesticide label.**

### **CONTAMINANT CONTROL**

Q 2A2: Which of the following practices does your school employ to improve contaminant control and ventilation? *(Please check all that apply)*

- ☒ [xx] Our school has a comprehensive indoor air quality management program that is consistent with EPA's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools.**
- ☒ [xx] Our school meets ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2010 (Ventilation for acceptable indoor air quality).**
- ☒ [xx] Our school has installed one or more energy recovery ventilation systems to bring in fresh air while recovering the heating or cooling from the conditioned air.**
- ☒ [xx] Our school has eliminated mercury-containing thermometers, chemical compounds, art chemicals, etc. and elemental mercury.**



**[xx ] Our school disposes of any unwanted mercury laboratory chemicals, thermometers and other devices in accordance with federal, state, and local environmental regulations.**

**[xx ] Our school has CO alarms that meet the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association code 720.**

**[xx ] There are no wood structures on school grounds that contain chromate copper arsenate.**

**[xx ] Our school has an asthma management program that is consistent with the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program's (NAEPP) Asthma Friendly Schools guidelines.**

**[xx ] Our school visually inspects all structures on a monthly basis to ensure they are free of mold, moisture, and water leakage.**

**[xx ] Our school's indoor relative humidity is maintained below 60%.**

**[xx ] Our school has moisture resistant materials/protective systems installed (ie. flooring, tub/shower, backing, and piping).**

**[xx ] Our school has a chemical management program that includes: chemical purchasing policy (low or no-VOC products), storage and labeling, training and handling, hazard communication, spills (clean up and disposal), and selecting EPA's Design for the Environment approved cleaning products.**

**[xx ] Our school prohibits smoking on campus and in public school buses.**

**[xx ] If your school has combustion appliances, is there an inventory of them and are they annually inspected to ensure they are not releasing Carbon Monoxide? (yes/no/no combustion appliances)**

**[xx ] All of the ground contact classrooms at our school have been tested for radon within the last 24 months.**

**[100% in compliance)] What percentage of all classrooms with radon levels greater than 4 pCi/L have been mitigated in conformance with ASTM E2121?**

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## **NUTRITION AND HEALTH**

**Q 2B1: Which practices does your school employ to promote nutrition, physical activity and overall school health? *(Please check all that apply)***

**[ xx] Our school participates in the USDA's Healthier School Challenge or another nutrition program.**

**[xx ] Our school participates in a Farm to School program or other program to utilize local food in our cafeteria.**

**[xx ] Our school has an onsite food garden.**

**[xx ] Our school garden supplies food for our cafeteria.— remainder sold at farmers market and proceeds donated to local food bank**

**[xx ] Our students spent an average of at least 120 minutes per week over the past year in school supervised physical education.**

**[xx ] At least 50% of our students' annual physical education takes place outdoors.**

**[xx ] At least 50% of our students have participated in the EPA's Sunwise program (or other equivalent UV protection and skin health education program).**

**Please list your school's USDA Healthier School Challenge award level or describe other nutrition program. (*Maximum 100 words*)**

**Child Wellness Intervention Project (CWIP) grant**

**Acorn High School was awarded funding for the 2012-2013 Child Wellness Intervention Project (CWIP) grant by the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Commission (ATSC)! Acorn Elementary was awarded two CWIP grants in 2010.**

**Please describe the type of outdoor exercise opportunities and nature-based recreation available to students. (*Maximum 200 words*)**

**Our school has a 15-acre Outdoor Classroom that is mostly forested with pine and a diversity of deciduous trees. Students have built trails throughout the area. Using dichotomous keys, the students painted the common name and scientific name of the tree on large sitting stones, along with a leaf and fruit so the tree could be identified during the winter months. The area has a large covered gazebo, 3 large flower beds, wildflower garden, blueberry patch, vegetable garden and greenhouse with aquaculture, pond, watchable wildlife area (tracking box, bird houses/feeders, bat houses, etc.), and picnic area. The walking trails are used by all students in grades Pre-K through 12 and the general public. Students in grades 7-12 maintain the area and plan projects to help teach other classes in the Outdoor Classroom.**

**Elementary students have physical education and health classes 120 minutes or more per week. Students in grades 7-12 participate in STREAM Team to monitor water quality of the Ouachita River and report biological, chemical and physical data to an Arkansas Game and Fish database. Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs is a program for students to encourage outdoor recreation. Annual fishing derbies are held for all middle school students.**

**Q 2B2: What percentage (by cost) of food purchased by your school is certified as "environmentally preferable" (e.g. *Organic, FairTrade, Food Alliance, Rainforest Alliance, etc.*)?**

***100% meets USDA guidelines!***

**Ouachita River School District was awarded the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant for both Acorn Elementary and Ode Maddox Elementary allowing every child to receive a healthy afternoon snack. Ouachita River's "snack program" provides all children with a variety of free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school day. This program is seen as an important catalyst for change in the efforts to combat childhood obesity by helping children learn more healthful eating habits. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program introduce school children to a variety of produce that they otherwise might not have had the opportunity to sample.**

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## **PART III – DOCUMENTATION OF STATE EVALUATION OF NOMINEE**

### **Instructions to Nominating Authority**

For the pilot year, the Nominating Authority must review nominated schools for high achievement based on the schools' *documented achievement* toward reaching the goals of each of the three U.S. Department of Education Green School Pillars and elements. For each school being nominated by the Authority to ED, please attach state (or equivalent) evaluation materials (application) based on the Nominating Authority Evaluation Support Framework provided by ED to facilitate your evaluation of schools.

The Nominating Authority must review and sign the following certification for each school being nominated to ED.

### **Nominating Authority's Certifications**

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct.

1. The school has some configuration that includes one or more of grades K-12. (Schools on the same campus with one principal, even a K-12 school, must apply as an entire school.)
2. The school achieves or is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which comes the closest to achieving the goals of all three green Ribbon Pillars:  
1) environmental impact and energy efficiency; 2) healthy school environments; and  
3) environmental and sustainability education.
3. The Nominating Authority has evaluated the school and selected it for submission to the U.S. Department of Education from among those schools overseen by the Nominating Authority which have applied for a Green Ribbon, based on *documented achievement* toward the three Green School Pillars and Elements.
4. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, tribal and local health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating

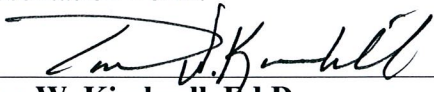
Agency: **Arkansas Department of Education**

Name of Nominating

Authority: **Tom W. Kimbrell, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education**

I have reviewed the information in this application, including the award and eligibility requirements on pages 2-4, and certify, to the best of my knowledge through a documentary

verification assessment, that the school meets the provisions in this Part of the Nominee Presentation Form.

  
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**Tom W. Kimbrell, Ed.D.**

Date 3-14-12

Note to Nominating Authority: The application, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to Director, ED-Green Ribbon Schools at [green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov](mailto:green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov) according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

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### **Public Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

Green Ribbon Pillar and Elements			Points
<b>Cross Cutting Questions – 5 points</b>			
Participation in Green School Programs and/or Awards for Environmental and Sustainability Efforts.			5 points
1 pt	2-3pts	4-5 pts	
School participates in a program that benchmarks progress	In addition, school has received one award	In addition, school has received more than one award and has achieved an advanced level of progress in at least one recognized program	5
<b>Pillar I: Environmental Impact and Energy Efficiency– 30 total points</b>			
<b>Goal: Net zero energy, carbon, water, waste, and hazardous waste impacts.</b>			
<b>Element IA: Improved energy conservation/energy-efficient building(s).</b>			15 points
1-5 pts	6-10pts	11-15 pts	
School demonstrates some reduced energy use	School demonstrates substantial reductions in electricity and heating energy use and carbon footprint; generates or purchases some renewable energy; measures and offsets some of its remaining carbon footprint.	School demonstrates reductions from baseline in electricity, heating and carbon footprint of 35% or more; >50% of energy use comes from renewable sources; offsets a <i>substantial</i> amount of its remaining footprint.	12
<b>Element IB: Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation</b>			5 points
1 pt	2-3 pts	4-5 pts	
The school protects its water from contaminants; cleans its drinking water fountains and controls lead in drinking water.	In addition, the school has smart irrigation and landscaping that is water-efficient; conducts annual water audits and controls leaks; installs <i>some</i> water-conserving fixtures and/or appliances (e.g. waterless urinals, dual-flush toilets, appliances); and can demonstrate an increased amount of reduction in water-use compared to baseline.	In addition, the school demonstrates a <i>substantial</i> amount of reduction in water-use compared to baseline; uses <i>predominately</i> alternative water sources for irrigation (e.g. gray water; rainwater harvesting); provides <i>predominately</i> water-efficient fixtures; and uses other creative measures for protecting and conserving water at the school site (e.g. bioswales for controlling runoff).	5
<b>Element IC: Reduced waste production and improved recycling and composting programs</b>			5 points
1-2 pts	3-4 pts	5 pts	
School monitors its hazardous waste and disposes of it as required by state law; has a recycling program that	In addition, school also has a pollution prevention approach to hazardous chemicals; recycles computer and electronics responsibly;	School also has made <i>substantial</i> , measured progress towards a “zero waste” goal; has a recycling program that	5



diverts 20% of its solid waste (but no organics/ compost); purchases some paper with <i>some</i> recycled content; uses <i>some</i> “third-party certified” cleaning products; and describes a few creative ways the school community practices the 4Rs.	purchases some electronics with E-PEAT/Energy Star certification; uses <i>substantial</i> amount of “third-party certified” cleaning products; has a recycling program that diverts 35% of its solid waste (some organics/ compost, such as yard waste); purchases <i>substantial</i> amounts of paper with recycled and chlorine-free content.	diverts 50% or more of its solid waste (including organics like yard waste and food waste); purchases <i>substantial</i> amounts of paper with > 30% recycled content, and chlorine-free; has an environmentally-preferable purchasing policy and a hazardous waste management policy that reduces and prevents solid and hazardous wastes; uses 100% “third-party certified” cleaning products (not including disinfectants); has a custodial program that meets “green” institutional services standards; and describes several creative ways the school community practices the 4Rs.	
<b>Element ID: Use of alternative transportation to, during, and from school</b>			5 points
1-2 pts	3-4 pts	5 pts	
School has programs in place to promote more efficient and healthier transportation, including designated carpool stalls, anti-idling policy, no loading/unloading near air intakes; has some percentage of students that do not drive in a single vehicle to school, and has some means of connecting students to the schoolyard.	In addition, school has a high percentage of students that do not drive in a single vehicle to school; participates in Safe Routes to Schools and identifies safe pedestrian routes; adopts a policy to promote active transportation; and has several means of connecting students to the schoolyard.	In addition, school has alternative-fuel buses and other creative means of promoting alternative transportation.	4
<b>Pillar II: Healthy School Environments– 30%</b>			
<b>Goal: The school improves the health and performance of students and staff</b>			
<b>Element IIA: An integrated school environmental health program</b>			15 points
1-5 pts	6-10pts	11-15 pts	
School complies with all relevant state laws related to pesticides, mercury, tobacco and	In addition, school tests classrooms for radon within last 24 months; implements an Integrated Pest Management	School has completed everything in this section and uses an aggressive approach to eliminating	12

other hazardous materials; ensures good ventilation; keeps relative humidity below 60%;contains no mold; has CO alarms and inventory of appliances; complies with radon laws.	plan that eliminates pesticides; implements an Indoor Air Quality Program equivalent to Tools for Schools; uses “third-party certified” cleaning products; actively manages chemicals; and describes other measures of student and staff health and safety.	environmental health and safety hazards (physical, biological, and chemical, natural).	
<b>Element IIB: High standards of nutrition, fitness, and quantity of quality outdoor time</b>			15 points
1-5 pts	6-10pts	11-15 pts	

School conducts at least an average of 120 minutes per week per student of physical education with a reasonable amount conducted outdoors; has an on-site food garden; and participates in some nutrition program.	School also participates in a farm-to-school program; participates in USDA or other nutrition program at a high level; students participate in Sunwise-type program; <i>some</i> food purchased is certified organic; food from school garden is eaten by students.	School also purchases a <i>substantial amount of</i> food certified organic; reduced UV and heat exposure; more than 50% of physical education annually takes place outdoors; and undertakes other measures to promote healthy nutrition, and high quality outdoor time.	<b>11</b>
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<b>Pillar III: Environmental and Sustainability Education– 35%</b> <b>Goal: 100% of the school's graduates are environmentally and sustainability literate</b>				
<b>Element IIIA: Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems</b>				20 points
1-5 pts	6-10pts	11-15	15-20	
School incorporates limited environmental and sustainability (E/S) activities in some grades; includes limited E/S concepts in some assessments; and <20% of teachers participate in occasional E/S professional development opportunities.	School integrates E/S concepts into many subjects; integrates E/S into some class and school assessments; >50% of teachers participate in occasional E/S professional development opportunities; enrolls at least 5% of the school's eligible graduates in AP environmental science during their high school career.	School focuses E/S literacy efforts on understanding the key relationships between dynamic environmental, social, and economic systems; incorporates E/S themes and topics in many grades, subjects, classroom and school assessments; >75% of teachers participate in one or more E/S professional development opportunities annually.	School has an E/S graduation/ matriculation requirement which is focused on understanding the key relationships between dynamic environmental, social, and economic systems; fully integrated E/S into the curricula scope and sequence of learning and matriculation standards for <i>all</i> grades; enrolls >5% of the school's eligible graduates in AP environmental science during their high school career.	15
<b>Element IIIB: Use of the environment and sustainability to develop Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) content, knowledge, and thinking skills</b>				5 points
1-3 pts	4-5 pts			
School <i>sometimes</i> integrates E/S into science courses; makes <i>some</i> connections to E/S careers; and provides <i>some</i> additional evidence about links to STEM.	School <i>frequently</i> integrates E/S concepts into STEM courses; curricula makes <i>many</i> connections throughout to E/S careers, career tech/green jobs; offers E/S related CTE courses; and provides a substantial amount of additional evidence about links to STEM education.			5



Element IIIC: Development and application of civic engagement knowledge and skills			10 points
1-3 pts	4-7 pts	8-10 pts	
School has civic projects related to environment and sustainability in <i>some</i> grades; occasional meaningful outdoor learning experiences in a <i>few</i> grades; and a <i>few</i> community partnerships, perhaps only involving donations of funds/supplies.	In addition, school employs best practices for inquiry-based, hands-on, experiential learning in both their civic and outdoor experiences; projects are not "one-off" but instead are in-depth service learning and civic projects fully integrated with school's academic coursework.	School receives full credit when <i>all</i> grades have civic projects; when <i>all</i> grades have meaningful outdoor learning experiences; and when the <i>quality</i> and <i>quantity</i> of community partnerships <i>results</i> in sustainability advances at the <i>school, other schools and the wider community</i> . Higher points for inspiring and creative projects and partnerships.	7
			81/100 points